FREE GUY

20th Century Studios' epic adventure-comedy "Free Guy" stars Ryan Reynolds, Jodie Comer, Joe Keery, Lil Rel Howery, Utkarsh Ambudkar and Taika Waititi, and is directed by Shawn Levy from a screenplay by Matt Lieberman and Zak Penn and a story by Lieberman. The film is produced by Ryan Reynolds, p.g.a., Shawn Levy, p.g.a., Sarah Schechter, Greg Berlanti and Adam Kolbrenner with Mary McLaglen, Josh McLaglen, George Dewey, Dan Levine and Michael Riley McGrath serving as executive producers.

The Story

Guy (Ryan Reynolds) is a bank teller at Free City Bank who lives a simple existence. He exudes positivity and cheerful optimism and is always up for a good cup of coffee. Like his best friend, Buddy (Lil Rel Howery), he has a zest for life but all that changes when Guy discovers he is actually a background player in the ultra-violent, open-world video game "Free City." Distributed by Soonami Studios, which is run by the greedy mogul Antwan (Taika Waititi), "Free City" is a wildly popular game where chaos and devastation reign. Players live an unabashed existence within the game and level-up by committing unprovoked acts of hostility and vandalism. Guy meets and is immediately smitten with the uber-sexy Molotovgirl (Jodie Comer), who helps him navigate the game and come to terms with the fact that the only life he has known is not real. Molotovgirl, whose name in the real world is Millie, has a bone to pick with Soonami, as she believes Antwan took the codes from a game she and her friend, Soonami programmer Keys (Joe Keery), sold the company.

As Guy begins to take on a more active role as a good person—an idealist in a cynical world where there are no limits—he becomes a champion for both the players and the other NPC's (non-playable characters) and the hero of his own story…one he is rewriting himself. Guy's popularity continues to grow and Antwan, realizing the serious threat he poses to the future of "Free City" and, more specifically, its sequel "Free City: Carnage," deploys Keys and a Soonami coder named Mouser (Utkarsh Ambudkar) to permanently remove Guy from the game. Now it is up to Guy to be *the* guy who saves his world his way.

Getting Started

It was the summer of 2018 and filmmaker Shawn Levy was contemplating his next project when he received a text message from Ryan Reynolds. "It was a text message that said, 'Hey, what are you doing next spring? I think I've got something for us.' I still have the text on my phone," Levy says. "So I read Matt Lieberman's script for 'Free Guy' and met with Ryan the next day, and knew it was that perfect combination of a big idea, an actor I admired and wanted to work with and a real opportunity for singularity, originality and fun."

Says Reynolds, “It is rare that you get a script or find a character who has such a clearly defined arc, and I loved that about this.”

One of Hollywood’s most versatile leading men, Reynolds has parlayed his good looks and irreverent comedic talents in films like “The Proposal,” “Van Wilder” and “The Change-Up” to become a successful action hero in films like “Safe House,” “X-Men Origins: Wolverine” and, of course, “Deadpool” and “Deadpool 2.”

“Shawn and I had wanted to work together for years. I have been a fan of his for a long time, not just as an artist, but as a person,” explains Reynolds. “I think he saw the same things in the story that I did. I miss wish fulfillment storytelling, and this really got me thinking about that, and I think it got Shawn in a similar way, too.”

Realizing it was going to be a tremendous amount of work, the two quickly sat down with screenwriter Zak Penn (“Ready Player One”) to polish the script and go through every scene to make sure they were world building in the right way. “Shawn is the exact guy you want to be building worlds with because, not only has he had vast experience in that area but he’s also very good at it,” explains Reynolds.

Levy, whose films include the “Night at the Museum” trilogy, “Date Night” and “Real Steel,” had spent the past few years beefing up his production company, 21 Laps. It was a fruitful time, too, resulting in the hit Netflix series “Stranger Things” and the critical and commercial box office hit “Arrival,” among others. Levy explains, “I decided when I finished the ‘Night at the Museum’ franchise to take a step back to say no to some things and shift my focus to building my production company. We had some very good fortune with ‘Arrival’ and ‘Stranger Things,’ and I was directing ‘Stranger Things’ a bit each season, so it was not hard to turn down the wrong movies.”

Lieberman (“The Addams Family”) and Penn’s screenplay is equal parts action, humor and emotion, and it is timely in a way that no one could have anticipated. “Since its inception, ‘Free Guy’ has been a meditation on free will,” says Lieberman. “Do we have to accept our station in life, or is it possible to break from our programming and change the world around us? When I came up with the idea six years ago, I had no idea how prescient this theme would become.”

“’Free Guy’ is very much the journey of a man who has only ever existed in this very kind of curated, fake world and who has the innocence and the goodness of spirit of an innocent,” says Levy. “As a result, you get the humor that we all love in characters like that, but we also have an incredibly root-able protagonist, a hero who we champion and whose struggles we feel viscerally, and whose ultimate triumphs we celebrate very passionately.”

By moving from the background to the forefront, Guy engages in all the outrageous elements of “Free City.” “On the one hand, the movie is a little bit of an existential crisis, but with this very aspirational undercurrent of maximum empowerment in a world without limits,” Levy says.

Despite Guy's existence in an alternate reality of a video game, Levy finds that "Free Guy's" truths are universal. "It's about the shift in mindset that I think we all yearn for, which is a shift to, 'Wait, maybe my life can be bigger than what I was given,'" says Levy. "Maybe life doesn't have to be something that happens to me, maybe it's something I can make, I can define, maybe my story is one that I can rewrite as I go. I think that that is a basic and universal human aspiration."

The Cast

As played by Ryan Reynolds, Guy is truly a creature of habit. He has the same daily routine and has never done or accomplished anything extraordinary. Outgoing and perpetually cheerful, but a tad naïve, Guy is a teller in a big city bank who is a fan of mid-90s pop divas. "I fell in love with the character of Guy, who is looking for some kind of authorship in his life and some semblance of belonging," explains Reynolds. "He has a childlike innocence to him and a very rote kind of pattern that he goes through each and every day."

Reynolds continues, "He's obscenely optimistic, but then he meets this woman who helps him grow, and I think that is something a lot of people can relate to. She helps him grow in interesting and unique ways, and he gains his own sort of agency and an ability to begin thinking for himself, as a result."

Director/producer Shawn Levy says, "Ryan's character Guy is, in my mind, a direct descendent of Tom Hanks in 'Big,' of Will Ferrell in 'Elf,' someone with tremendous charm. He has the humor of Ryan Reynolds, but without the cynicism of the 'Deadpool' franchise (and that's a franchise I frickin' love, just to be clear). This is Ryan in a way that we haven't seen him, a little bit more wide-eyed, good and innocent."

Levy continues, "The uniqueness of Ryan is that he's able to be this badass awesome action hero, but he never does it without humor and he always does it with a willingness to kind of give himself some shit. He's always able to see himself with as much humor as he looks at the world around him."

Jodie Comer, the Emmy®-winning star of "Killing Eve," takes on the dual roles of Millie and Molotovgirl. Millie is a beautiful, brilliant and somewhat reserved video game designer and programmer who comes into Guy's life. Millie and Guy are both looking to break out of their nondescript roles in the background. Her avatar in the open-world video game "Free City" is a mysterious badass British biker chick in knee-high leather boots who goes by the name Molotovgirl, who helps Guy change the course of his destiny.

"Millie is so clever. She's so smart and determined. She believes in herself, which I admire. And she's funny," says Comer. "But I think what I love best is that even though something bad has happened to her, she's determined to make things right."

The filmmakers met with a number of truly amazing actresses who were, in Reynolds' words, "epic." He continues, "Jodie was one of our last auditions, and it was like you were watching

Meryl Streep in her first film role…it was like one of those magic moments that I don't think I'll ever forget. I remember sucking in the audition scene with her because I was outside of my own body watching and was just really caught off guard by how nuanced she was with her work and just how good she was. Even when she thought she wasn't good in a scene she was still better than I could ever be…she was just so present. We all love 'Killing Eve' and we knew she was the person who plays Villanelle, so we thought, let's see how this goes, and sure enough, she was mind blowing."

The actress was thrilled by the opportunity to work with Shawn Levy and Ryan Reynolds. "Ryan is one of the funniest people on earth, and knowing I would mostly be doing scenes with him, working as his partner, was terrifying," she says. "Also, just the challenge that it would be for me, the size and scale of the production, and the duality of playing two characters…but it's these kinds of challenges that push me forward."

The love story at the heart of "Free Guy" is between Guy and Molotovgirl, two characters who meet and, at first, appear very different. Guy is an innocent and Molotovgirl is a tough cynic, but Guy has gone through life feeling like he's living in the background in a way that doesn't matter, as has Millie. "You have this connection between these two outsiders, these two people who have felt relegated to the margins, who come together, understand what that feels like, and as a result, become heroes together," explains Levy. "And it's this incredibly romantic assent of two characters who go from the background to the foreground, from the margins to the heroic, and they do so together."

Comer was also taken with the real-world approach to presenting the action of a video game. "What I loved about 'Free Guy' was the aspect of it being live-action," Comer says. "It creates such humanity within the characters and within the gaming world that we would otherwise feel disconnected from. It allows us to relate to those characters and feel what they're feeling."

Guy first shares his existential dilemma with Buddy, his one-dimensional best friend and a security guard at Free City's beleaguered bank. Lil Rel Howery, who dazzled audiences in films like "Get Out," "Brittany Runs a Marathon" and "Good Boys," is Buddy. Like Guy, he too is a background player in "Free City" but, unlike Guy, he is uncomfortable drifting too far out of his comfort zone.

The filmmakers were looking for actors who are nimble in comedy, but the actors they eventually cast also have a depth to them that is undeniable. "Lil Rel Howery is the perfect example of a guy who we cast thinking he would be firing off joke after joke and how great it would be to have him take some of the load off of me, allowing me to push the narrative a bit more," says Reynolds. "But, in addition to being funny, Rel was also heartbreaking. He is beautiful in every scene, and that's the stuff you can't plan for, and that's the stuff that you've got to be ready to bottle as soon as you see it, and thank God we did that and captured some of those moments on camera."

Actor Joe Keery, who works with Levy on the popular Netflix series "Stranger Things," plays Walter "Keys" McKeys, the self-effacingly handsome and talented computer whiz who works for

Soonami Studios, where he programs “Free City.” A millennial in his 20s, Keys is friends with Millie, with whom he created a video game that was acquired by Soonami and then buried, but his feelings for her go much deeper than she realizes.

“When we meet Keys, he is a little bit of an introvert, and fiercely loyal,” Keery explains. “But throughout the story he becomes more empowered, his arc mirrors Guy’s—every character takes steps to regain control of their lives. I’ve always connected with that message.”

Utkarsh Ambudkar (“The Broken Hearts Gallery,” “Pitch Perfect”) is Mouser, a funny, surly, idealistic coder for Soonami’s “Free City.” He is fiercely loyal to the game’s creator, Antwan, and will do anything to prove his dedication. The actor put an original spin on Mouser in the audition process, imbuing the character with a rock star sensibility. “When I got the audition for this role, I figured everybody was going to go in there dressed in an oxford or a polo shirt or whatever they think the computer nerd is supposed to look like, but video game programmers and streamers are rock stars and they dress like rock stars,” Ambudkar says. “They carry themselves like rock stars. They are huge in their communities, and I wanted Mouser to reflect that empowerment. He operates under that rock star mentality.”

As Guy breaks free from his mundane code, Keys and Mouser dive into the world of “Free City” to take Guy out, dressed as a dirty stripper cop and a worked out, bloodthirsty, super-jacked pink rabbit, respectively. “That’s sort of where Mouser’s mind goes,” Ambudkar says. “He thinks rabbits are deadly creatures and chooses to celebrate that, so that’s kind of his thing.”

Taika Waititi, the Oscar®-winning screenwriter (“Jojo Rabbit”) and director (“Thor: Ragnarok”), is Antwan, the greedy mogul behind “Free City,” which has been financially very lucrative for Soonami. Loud, boorish, obnoxious and a verbally abusive narcissist, Antwan is currently preparing for the upcoming release of “Free City: Carnage.”

“Antwan is the villain who effectively coopted and stole the game code of Millie and Keys, and he’s reaped tremendous wealth, royalties and fame, but without giving them any credit or money,” says Levy. “He’s just a bad dude, and kind of deliciously so, but he’s played by Taika, who, in addition to being an amazing director, is one of the most gifted comedic performers I’ve ever worked with.”

Levy continues, “Taika takes an already funny script and is riffing on a level that is frickin’ sublime. His mind is so fast, and so Antwan is, I think, a villain for the ages. Someone that you delight in but also hate to death, and the fact that Taika is able to walk that razor’s edge and make him both loathsome and hilarious, is a testament to that guy’s talent.”

Explaining what piqued his interest in the role Waititi says, “Reading the script, I was attracted to this idea of being inside the gaming world and seeing how those characters interact and how everything works with human characters coming in with avatars and stealing cars, and committing crimes and doing all those things that you get to do in ‘Free City,’ and how that affects them.”

"Taika is just a beast," adds Reynolds. "We could literally have cut an entire film of just his outtakes, of just the stuff we didn't use. He is a legend in every moment. The stuff he does and the way his mind works and how quick and reflexive he is, it's just unreal."

Some of the video gaming world's most influential figures drop in for cameos in "Free Guy," including: Imane "Pokimane" Anys, Lannan "LazarBeam" Eacott, Seán William "Jacksepticeye" McLoughlin, Tyler "Ninja" Blevins and Daniel "DanTDM" Middleton.

Making the Film

Principal photography on "Free Guy" took place in and around Boston over 68 days beginning in late April 2019. The talented creative team assisting director/producer Shawn Levy included: director of photography George Richmond, BSC ("Rocketman," "Kingsman: The Secret Service"), production designer Ethan Tobman ("Black Is King"), film editor Dean Zimmerman, ACE ("The Darkest Minds," "Real Steel"), costume designer Marlene Stewart ("The Fate of the Furious," "Date Night"), music by Christophe Beck ("Frozen II," "Ant-Man"), visual effects supervisor Swen Gillberg ("Furious 7") and stunt coordinator Chris O'Hara ("Venom," "Lady Bird").

Creating the Look of "Free City"

Cinematographer George Richmond was presented with the unique task of having to shoot two movies within one. For scenes taking place in the real world, the DP and his team used Super 35 Alexa Mini cameras and a full set of Panavision G Series Anamorphic lenses with AWZ Wide Anamorphic Zoom and ATZ Long Anamorphic Zoom. "We shot the real world using a pretty rigorous color palette that was committedly cool and filled with navies and greys and blacks and was very much a certain ilk," says Levy. "The camerawork was messy and more handheld with lots of foreground and busyness."

For the world of the "Free City" video game, Large Format Alexa 65 cameras and a Super 35 Alexa Mini camera were used, accompanied by a full set of Panavision Sphero 65 prime lenses and Legacy Ultra Speed Primes. "'Free City' has a much poppier, vivid, warmer palette of colors, and the compositions are cleaner, more wide-angled, more frontal, more symmetrical," says Levy, "so that at any given time—not only are we avoiding any visual confusion between the real world and the video game world—we get that kind of dynamism and the fun and the visual variety of jumping back and forth between realities."

For production designer Ethan Tobman, one of the biggest challenges was trying to enhance the character of Guy through the creation of a home environment for a character whose existence is merely an afterthought. For Guy's apartment, he shifted to a decided lack of detail. He explains, "The hardest set we did on this movie was the simplest set, and certainly one of the smallest sets on the film, and that was Guy's apartment. How do you design an apartment, how do you decorate and live in an apartment, inhabited by a character who has no character?"

“He has a notebook, and a pencil, and a pencil sharpener, but the pencils are never sharpened,” Tobman continues. “He has books on his wall, lots of books, and they’re all color-coordinated, but there’s no text on the spines, they have no titles, they have no text in them. He has cereal in his cupboard, but it’s all the same cereal. It’s all he ever eats. His desk, his wardrobe, the vanity in his bathroom, they don’t touch the floor, they just sort of float off the walls. That was an extremely fun set to do, but tonally the most difficult.”

Tobman was also tasked with creating a real-life version of a video game world, using Boston as a canvas. “We knew from day one we wanted to have a video game environment that took place inside the real world in the sense that we were going to augment it and change the saturation, color palette, texture and geometries, but it takes place and is filmed real,” says Tobman. “That’s both what sets it apart from other movies that explored the subject matter, but also what I think both Shawn and I felt make you feel more emotionally connected and makes you feel a little bit more rooted in reality before we subvert it.”

As a result, Tobman and his team built sets that could exist in both the physical world and a virtual one, with set pieces that were mobile as well. “Logistically, it’s a completely different approach,” says Tobman. “We were shooting in real places and changing every storefront, every sign, every billboard, every traffic light, every vehicle.”

“It wasn’t until I started prepping ‘Free Guy’ that I realized how big this movie really is,” says Levy. “It is filled with a ton of visual effects to exemplify life inside a video game where anything is possible, but it has a half-dozen full-on action sequences, too. And because of the scale and the scope of the movie visually, it was incredibly gratifying to just let my mind free associate. In a world that is a video game, literally anything was possible. I didn’t have to conform to rules of reality, to rules of gravity, to rules of mass, density, physics or any other science things I don’t understand. It could be whatever we dream up…and my team and I dreamed big.”

“For me, the biggest challenge was pulling off sequences that were mind-numbingly complex and bringing them to life in a way that is visually satisfying, but also always filled with humor and fun,” says Levy. “Constantly balancing those tones, that to me was the bar I had to meet every day”.

The production enlisted the support of a number of different promotional partners to help bring the world of “Free City” to life, all of whom helped add color and excitement to the video game atmosphere. These included Ducati Motorcycles, General Motors, Under Armour and Acer Computers.

In the film, Guy covets a pair of shoes that he sees in a store window every day, but because he is an NPC he can’t afford them. “NPCs bank balances do not change. Their wants and achievements never change because they are, by design, not supposed to be different,” says Levy. “And yet he wants these shoes, and one day, thanks to this kind of awakening of consciousness, he can get them.”

The filmmakers enlisted Under Armour to create a pair of super cool, one-of-a-kind shoes that don't exist anywhere in the real world. "Under Armour took on the challenge, and together we designed a shoe that doesn't exist anywhere but in 'Free City,'" says Levy.

Ducati Motorcycles supplied the production with a stash house filled with bikes of every variety for one of the film's characters. "They were Ducati bikes that were older, newer, vintage and rad as hell, and they also built some bespoke new motorcycles for us," explains Levy. "If you were in a video game you wouldn't just want an average bike that you could just go buy for cheap in the real world, you'd want something that is your idea of the most awesome bike possible, and Ducati helped make that happen."

Because "Free City" is a video game and in video games life is lived ambitiously, the filmmakers wanted to fill the streets of the video game world with vehicles that stand out, and General Motors was more than happy to play along. "We wanted to see people driving in models, customized editions and colors that were all like dialed-up reality, and the partnership we had with GM was a big part of allowing that to happen," Levy says. "We had a fleet of vehicles where the awesome factor had been totally dialed-up so that the streets of 'Free City' were very much a world that feels a little bit like our own, but way better."

Acer Computers helped deck out the portions of the film set in the real world offices of Soonami Studios, the game company run by Antwan (Taika Waititi) where Keys (Joe Keery) and Mouser (Utkarsh Ambudkar) work. "Acer Computers supplied us with a ton of laptops and desktops, because, as anyone knows, hard-core gamers are playing on the best of the best, upper-end products specifically designed for game experience and game graphics."

<u>Bringing the Characters to Life</u>

Guy's physical appearance, which consists of khakis and a nondescript blue short-sleeved button-down shirt, remains the same for most of the film, and Reynolds credits his wife, actress Blake Lively for the inspiration.

"I was looking to find a way to make Guy look and feel very real and grounded within his world, but also iconic at the same time, which is a tough thing to do," Reynolds explains. "We had him changing his outfit every day like everyone else in every other movie, and then it was Blake who said we should think about a Halloween costume. So I started thinking about Guy through the lens of trick-or-treaters and Halloween and people dressing up and asked myself, 'What is something that everyone would just immediately recognize?' and the blue shirt and khaki pants sort of stuck."

Reynolds continues, "From then on we stopped calling him Guy and started referring to him as the blue shirt guy, which is even more of a generic thing to call somebody who doesn't have an inner world or identity or anything, which spoke to his journey as well."

Costume designer Marlene Stewart had the distinct challenge of creating two very different looks for one actor. Comer describes the stylistic differences between Millie and Molotovgirl, saying,

“Molotovgirl’s got knee-high leather boots, she’s got brown leather pants, she’s got the knee pads because she’s practical, and then she has this kind of iron breastplate, this white kind of very feminine blouse, and then we had this incredible wig which had all these colors going through it, so it was a very tough exterior. Millie throws her hair up…she’s more of a jeans and T-shirts kind of girl, someone who doesn’t take herself too seriously. I imagined her getting up in the morning and leaving for work and just grabbing whatever was in her closet.”

The costumes on “Free Guy” were indispensable in helping the actress find her character, as they gave her a sense of empowerment. “Molotovgirl is a 20-something-year-old woman working within the realms of the gaming world, and she’s created an avatar that isn’t a man’s ideal of what an avatar should look like,” Comer says. “There was a lot of back and forth on what the costume should be, but I think what we came up with in the end was really cool.”

Designing the Action Sequences

Stunt coordinator Chris O’Hara, who also served as second unit director, worked closely with the cast, including Comer, to get them in fighting shape…and it was an experience the actress relished. “It was so incredible. It was a completely new experience,” she says. “I was so tired but so ready to learn. You have kind of a newfound appreciation for the stunt team, honestly, because that’s what they do all day. They taught me so well, and they had such patience, you know, I was so eager to do as much as I possibly could.”

“Free Guy” offered O’Hara a unique opportunity in that he was tasked with creating all the action that appears in the background as Guy runs through his everyday routine. “You’ll see a lot of stuff that we’ve done, it’s kind of not up-front and featured, but it’s more background things happening behind our hero character. And it’s almost like little Easter eggs. You’ll probably have to watch the movie twice to kind of see all those little nuances behind the scenes,” O’Hara says.

O’Hara’s stunt choreography incorporated Guy’s growth from an everyman to a video game superhero. For O’Hara, this dramatic arc allowed him to tell Guy’s story through the development of his skills. “When he has this first enlightenment about the video game world, he is clumsy, he has no idea what’s going on, it’s like a baby taking its first steps,” O’Hara says. “As we go on, we see Guy learning how to be better, how to get more points. It allows us, as far as fight coordinating is concerned, to show an arc of his ability.”

Introducing “Free Guy” to the World

The filmmakers view “Free Guy” as a heroic origin story, but one without a cape, tights and superpowers. “Our Guy is very much an everyguy who can do extraordinary things,” says director/producer Shawn Levy. “He’s also a hero who is close to us, who resonates for us, and who we can relate to.”

For Ryan Reynolds, it is super important to work with people he gets along with, like Levy. “There’s a kind of mutual respect there, and as you get older that becomes more and more

valuable on a film set, the idea that you are working with smart people," says Reynolds. "It's about having a good experience, which really lends itself to what's on screen."

As a result, cast and crew members became close. Producers Mary McLaglen and Josh McLaglen just so happen to be brother and sister, and Levy and Reynolds' devotion to their families helped instill the shoot with a familial vibe, which made the production that much more special.

According to co-screenwriter Matt Lieberman, "Working with Shawn and Ryan was a dream come true. They had such great ideas for the draft we worked on together, where we really tried to bring out the humanity of the characters and make sure every turn felt fresh and unique. Ryan had a solid grasp for what he wanted to do with the character of Guy from the outset and, together with Shawn, really elevated it beyond my wildest expectations."

"I've been lucky enough to work with Shawn twice, on 'Stranger Things' and now 'Free Guy,' adds Joe Keery. "His energy and his drive set the tone for the whole cast and crew, it's collaborative and energetic. Watching him operate on set is a masterclass in movie making."

"Being around someone like that forces you to do the same," adds Jodie Comer. "You have to be on the ball and not only know your lines but also be prepared to bring ideas and more to the table. Shawn's just great fun and I think his attitude bled into the atmosphere on set and ultimately is what you can feel in the film. Nobody on this set took themselves too seriously, which I loved."

Says Reynolds, I would never pretend to speak for our cast, but I can honestly say that we worked our asses off to make sure our set was a place where everyone felt safe. I really want to make sure that, particularly younger actors, feel safe to be great and to suck and to do all those things that happen to all of us, but without the shame part because that shuts down the creative process."

Comer agrees, saying, "What I love about Shawn and Ryan is you can sense how much they care, and for an actor that allows me to put my trust in them. They both have such insane energy, and it's really fun to work with that on set."

"At the end of the day, this movie is just an absolute fastball of joy," says Reynolds. "It is one of those visceral experiences, and it's heartbreaking to think about the possibility of audiences not seeing a movie like this on the big screen. Assuming that all the safety protocols are in place, I can't wait for people to experience this in a cinema, on the big screen with that sound that reverberates in your chest. It's a huge part of the experience, and this is a movie with tremendous scope to it, so seeing it in that format is so important."

"It is epic on every level," adds Comer. "It's so colorful and immersive, and I can't wait to be able to watch it in a theater and see other people's reactions. I think it takes a lot to laugh out loud at things. People may laugh in their heads, but I think what we've created will give people a full belly laugh. And it's going to make you feel good. I can't wait to share it with people."

According to Levy, “The theme of the movie is not merely accepting the world as you find it, but realizing that you are empowered to affect your own world. It’s about the empowerment of the individual, in the midst of a world he or she is dissatisfied with, and the personal agency to make a change. In other words, ‘Free Guy’ has never been more relevant — a story about people coming together both in real and digital universes, and the joy in a shared community. We need that.”

Keery says, “I hope it’s the impetus for a little positive change in people’s lives after such a turbulent year. To me the themes movie feel more relevant than ever. I hope that when it comes out and people finally see it, people walk out with a little bit of joy and a reminder of how fun it is to go to the movies.”

“The gaming culture has, as a bedrock, some of the themes addressed in our film, like this is the real me, but maybe there’s a me that I prefer,” says Levy. “And to some extent, the way we pick our skins, the way we pick our weapons, the way we choose our experience, those are aspirational. And for me, that’s what the best movie experiences do. They allow us to leave the seat that we’re sitting in and to inhabit and experience a world that is bigger than our own.”

About the Cast

RYAN REYNOLDS (Guy/Producer) is one of Hollywood’s most diverse leading men, seamlessly transitioning through varied genres of drama, action and comedy in his rich and ever evolving career.

Reynolds is the Golden Globe®-nominated star and producer of the 20th Century Fox record breaking film “Deadpool.” The movie opened in February 2016 and shattered expectations, opening to $152.2 million over the four-day Presidents’ Day weekend, making it the biggest R-rated opening of all time and the biggest February opening in box office history. The superhero juggernaut also replaced “The Matrix Reloaded” as the highest-grossing R-rated film in history with more than $750 million globally. The film continued to break records with two Golden Globe nominations: a best actor nod for Reynolds and best picture nomination for the film, making it the first live-action superhero movie to pick up a Golden Globe nomination in the comedy or musical category. The film also received a Writers Guild of America nomination for best adapted screenplay and a PGA Award nomination for best picture. The highly anticipated sequel “Deadpool 2,” which released in May 2018, helped make “Deadpool” a billion-dollar franchise, bringing in over $748-million globally, making it the highest grossing title in the “X-Men” universe.

Reynolds upcoming films include “The Hitman’s Wife Bodyguard” opposite Samuel L. Jackson and Salma Hayek out June 16, 2021 and 20th Century Studios’ “Free Guy,” which he produced under his Maximum Effort banner coming out August 13, 2021. He recently wrapped production on “Red Notice” for Netflix, a globetrotting action heist also starring Dwayne Johnson and Gal Gadot and “The Adam Project,” a time-travel adventure project for Netflix produced by Maximum Effort and 21 Laps and directed by Shawn Levy.

Reynolds has a slate of film's in development under his Maximum Effort banner including: "Clue" with Jason Bateman attached to co-star and direct, the musical reimagining of the Charles Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol" with Will Farrell, "Imaginary Friends" with John Krasinski, who will also write and direct, "Shotgun Wedding" for Lionsgate and "Upstate," an original feature comedy for Netflix which he will co-write with John August ("The Nines").

Beyond acting, Reynolds is a successful entrepreneur. He is the owner of Aviation American Gin, the fastest growing gin in the world, and Mint Mobile. He was named one of Fast Company's 2020 most creative people in business, The Hollywood Reporter named him one of the most powerful people in entertainment 2018 and he has also been included in the Variety 500, celebrating the 500 most powerful people working in the global media business today.

Reynolds recently launched The Group Effort Initiative, a self-financed diversity and inclusion program that aims to give people of color a chance to work and learn on his upcoming productions. The program, run through his production banner Maximum Effort, plans to bring 10 to 20 trainees who are Black, Indigenous, people of color or who are from marginalized communities across the age spectrum, giving them real-life film experience.

His recent film credits include: Netflix's "6 Underground," "Pokémon Detective Pikachu," from Legendary/Warner Bros., "The Hitman's Bodyguard" with Samuel L. Jackson; and the space thriller "Life," opposite Jake Gyllenhaal and Rebecca Ferguson. In 2015 he starred in a variety of feature films, including "Mississippi Grind," "Woman in Gold," "The Voices" and "Selfless." "Mississippi Grind," directed by Ryan Fleck and Anna Boden, premiered at Sundance to rave reviews. In The Weinstein Company's "Woman in Gold," Reynolds starred alongside Helen Mirren to tell the story of Maria Altmann (Mirren), a Jewish refugee who is forced to flee Vienna during World War II and her personal mission to reclaim a painting the Nazis stole from her family, the famous Lady in Gold. In Lionsgate's serial killer comedy "The Voices," by famed French director Marjane Satrapi, Reynolds starred as a troubled, meth-addicted factory worker driven to murder by his talking pets, a psychopathic cat called Mr. Whiskers and Bosco, his peace-loving dog. Reynolds also voiced both of the animals. He also starred opposite Sir Ben Kingsley in the independent feature "Selfless," directed by Tarsem Singh.

Reynolds voiced two DreamWorks Animation films in 2013. In "Turbo," Reynolds voiced a snail named Turbo who has dreams of winning the Indy 500. The movie also features the voices of Samuel L. Jackson, Maya Rudolph, Snoop Dogg and Michelle Rodriguez. Prior to that, Reynolds had his animated film debut as the voice of Guy in DreamWorks Animation's, "The Croods." The movie also featured the voices of Nicolas Cage, Emma Stone and Catherine Keener and earned over $508 million worldwide.

His other film credits include: the Universal action thriller, "Safe House," opposite Denzel Washington, which opened to $40 million domestically in its first weekend and went onto earn $208 million worldwide; the Universal comedy "The Change-Up," opposite Jason Bateman; the Warner Bros. adaptation of the popular DC Comic, "Green Lantern"; and the mystery/thriller

"Buried." In the acclaimed and cinematically challenging film, Reynolds is the only actor to appear on camera for the duration of the piece.

In 2009, Reynolds served as Disney's romantic comedy lead in "The Proposal" opposite Sandra Bullock. The film opened #1 at the box office and grossed $315 million worldwide. Reynolds was also seen as Deadpool in the "X-Men" spin-off, "X-Men Origins: Wolverine." He starred opposite an all-star cast including Hugh Jackman, and the film grossed $365 million worldwide. Additionally that year, Reynolds starred in "Adventureland" opposite Kristen Stewart, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was nominated in the ensemble performance category at the 2009 Gotham Awards.

Some of Reynolds other film credits include: "Paper Man" and the Working Title film "Definitely, Maybe" for Universal Pictures; writer/director John August's "The Nines"; director Joe Carnahan's "Smokin' Aces" for Working Title and Universal Pictures; and "The Amityville Horror," a remake of the cult classic film which opened #1 at the box office and made $107 million worldwide; as well as cult favorites "Waiting…" and "Van Wilder."

In addition to his numerous leading roles, Reynolds also serves on the board of directors for the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. In November of 2007, Reynolds ran the New York City Marathon in honor of his father, who has long suffered from the ravages of Parkinson's disease. Reynolds marathon run raised over $100,000 for the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

JODIE COMER (Millie/Molotovgirl) is a British actress best known for her role as Villanelle in BBC America's cult breakout series "Killing Eve." Comer stars in the series, which was produced and written by Phoebe Waller-Bridge, alongside Sandra Oh. Comer's standout performance as the Russian assassin quickly made her a fan favorite among audiences, and earned her an Emmy Award® for lead actress in a drama series in 2019, as a well as a BAFTA Award for leading actress. The third season of "Killing Eve" premiered on BBC America and AMC on April 12, 2020 and garnered Comer another Emmy Award nomination for lead actress in a drama series. Production on the fourth and final season is slated to begin this summer, with episodes premiering in 2022.

Comer recently wrapped production on 20th Century Studios' "The Last Duel," where she will star alongside Ben Affleck and Matt Damon, who also co-wrote the script – marking their first joint screenplay since "Good Will Hunting." The project, based on Eric Jager's "The Last Duel: A True Story of Crime, Scandal, and Trial by Combat in Medieval France," recounts the real-life revenge drama about the last legally sanctioned duel in France. The film is tentatively scheduled to release on October 15, 2021.

In April 2020, Comer was announced to be the first global brand ambassador of luxury skin-care brand, Noble Panacea.

Comer's additional television credits include: "The White Princess," "Thirteen," "Rillington Place," "Doctor Foster," "Lady Chatterley's Lover," "My Mad Fat Diary," "Remember Me,"

“Inspector George Gently,” “Vera,” “Law & Order: UK,” “Coming Up,” “Casualty,” “Good Cop,” “Silent Witness,” “Doctors,” “Justice,” “Waterloo Road,” “Holby City” and “The Royal Today.”

LIL REL HOWERY (Buddy) is a comedian, actor, writer and producer. You might have seen him in one of the biggest Netflix movies in history, “Bird Box.”

Howery’s breakout role as TSA agent Rod Williams in the Oscar®-winning “Get Out” ushered him into superstar status. Winner of the best comedic performance in a movie at the MTV Movie & TV Awards, nominated for an IMAGE Award for best supporting actor, and crowned Bernie Mac Comedy King of the Year, Howery is experiencing success at a rate bestowed upon very few in Hollywood's history. He executive produced and starred in his own Fox sitcom, “Rel.” He also starred opposite Sandra Bullock and Trevante Rhodes in “Bird Box,” which smashed Netflix viewership records when it premiered in December. His 2019 film “Brittany Runs a Marathon” won the audience award at Sundance and was released by Amazon that August, when he also starred in “The Angry Birds Movie 2.”

Most recently he appeared in “Bad Trip” with Tiffany Haddish and “The Photograph” with Issa Rae.

In 2018, Howery played the lead role in the film “Uncle Drew” and guest-starred alongside Issa Rae in HBO's “Insecure.” He starred in the critically acclaimed NBC comedy series “The Carmichael Show” as Jerrod Carmichael’s brother Bobby. He was also an executive producer and wrote and starred in the “gleefully absurd” (Chicago Sun-Times) weekly sketch comedy show “Friends of the People” on TruTV.

Howery’s first standup special, “Relevant,” premiered in 2015 on Comedy Central. The hour was executive produced by Kevin Hart and was named one of “The 10 Best Stand-Up Specials of 2015” by Vulture. With much anticipation, he has tapped HBO for his second. Howery’s career has helped carve an emboldened cultural conversation. He is the promise realized.

JOE KEERY (Keys) has quickly established himself as a highly sought-after young actor in film and television. Most recently, he starred in the satirical horror film “Spree” from writer/director Eugene Kotlyarenko, which premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. The film, also staring Sasheer Zamata and David Arquette, follows Keery’s Kurt Kunkle, a rideshare driver desperate for social media followers who has figured out a deadly plan to go viral. Keery is currently in production on the fourth season of Netflix’s Emmy® and Golden Globe Award®-nominated series “Stranger Things,” where he stars as Steve Harrington. In 2017, the cast was awarded outstanding performance by an ensemble in a drama series at the Screen Actors Guild Awards® and in 2018 the series was named one of the top TV programs of the Year by AFI.

Born and raised outside of Boston, Keery tagged along after his older sister to theater classes in high school and realized that he quite enjoyed them. Upon graduation, he applied to both acting and architecture schools and fate decided when he was accepted into the renowned Theatre School at DePaul University. He started working immediately upon graduation, booking roles on

the FOX's Golden Globe®-nominated series "Empire" and a recurring role on NBC's "Chicago Fire." He has previously been seen in Aaron Sorkin's directorial debut "Molly's Game" opposite Jessica Chastain, the comedy horror "Slice" starring Chance the Rapper, the offbeat romantic comedy "After Everything" alongside Maika Monroe and Jeremy Allen White, and the independent film "Henry Gamble's Birthday Party."

2020 proved to be quite a year for multi-hyphenate **UTKARSH AMBUDKAR (Mouser)**, one of the freshest, smartest, most relevant voices in the business right now.

Ambudkar was recently seen in Sony's "The Broken Hearts Gallery," opposite Geraldine Viswanathan and Dacre Montgomery, and on Disney+'s "Godmothered," reuniting with Jillian Bell and Isla Fisher.

Ambudkar's film credits include the Sundance darlings, "Blindspotting" and "Brittany Runs a Marathon." In the latter, Ambudkar is the romantic lead to the titular character (Jillian Bell), an underachieving hot mess of a 27-year-old woman who decides to take control of her life -- one New York City block at a time. The film marks the directorial debut of award-winning playwright Paul Downs Colaizzo. Material Pictures' Tobey Maguire and Matthew Plouffe and Picture Films' Margot Hand produce. His features resume includes Universal's "Ride Along 2" with Kevin Hart and Ice Cube, with whom he also co-starred in "Barbershop: The Next Cut" and "Game Over, Man!"

A rapper and creative force from a young age, Ambudkar was an original member of The Beatards, a NYC-based underground hip-hop group that performed alongside acts like Santigold, Azealia Banks, G-Eazy, Public Enemy, Questlove and more. His work with the Beatards eventually helped Ambudkar land the role of Donald, a member of the competitive Treblemakers in "Pitch Perfect" with Anna Kendrick, Elizabeth Banks and Rebel Wilson.

Following "Pitch Perfect," Ambudkar snagged the role of Rishi in "The Mindy Project." More recently for television, he played Raj, a young, charismatic announcer pitted against Hank Azaria's Brockmire in the second season of the IFC series. Ambudkar's TV credits also include Showtime's "White Famous," where he regularly stole scenes as a Hollywood agent; "House of Lies," with Don Cheadle; TNT's "Legends"; a recurring arc on ABC's "The Muppets" and a guest role on Hulu's anthology series "Dimension 404." In 2016, Ambudkar played Apu's nephew Jay, the first Indian American actor to lend his voice to "The Simpsons." A year later, in comedian Hari Kondabolu's documentary "The Problem with Apu" (2017), Ambudkar discussed the cultural ripple effects of one of the few Indian characters on TV.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Ambudkar trained at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. While in New York, he acted in various plays and received a Lucille Lortel Award nomination for his work in "Animals Out of Paper," by Rajiv Joseph at the Second Stage Theatre.

Originating the role of Aaron Burr in the developmental readings of "Hamilton," Ambudkar later reunited with Lin-Manuel Miranda as part of the improvisational rap group Freestyle Love

Supreme, named in tribute to the John Coltrane jazz suite. Accompanied by keyboards and beats, the group performs spoken and sung numbers that are created in real time based on suggestions from the audience. The group performed at a variety of festivals and venues around the world and episodes ran on Pivot in 2014 and Seeso two years later. In 2019, Ambudkar and his cohorts reconvened for Freestyle Love Supreme's Broadway run at the Booth Theater to rave reviews. Thomas Kail ("Hamilton," "In the Heights") directed and produced along with Miranda, Jill Furman and Jon Steingart.

Ambudkar's debut album "Vanity" also dropped in 2018. His brand of raw and melodic hip-hop addresses race, the first generation immigrant experience, politics and Hollywood and also features Ambudkar's old rap crew, including Miranda, "Blindspotting's" Daveed Diggs and Rafael Casal, and a variety of South Asian artists such as Das Racist's Heems, Brooklyn Shanti, Kaly and Samora Pinderhughes.

Academy Award®-winning writer, director, and Emmy®-nominated actor **Taika Waititi's (Antwan)** latest film, "Jojo Rabbit" (Fox Searchlight) received six Oscar® nominations and earned him an Oscar for best adapted screenplay. Previous credits include: "Thor: Ragnarok" (Marvel), "Hunt for the Wilderpeople," "What We Do in the Shadows," "Boy," and the Oscar-nominated short film "Two Cars, One Night."

Waititi is currently in post-production on "Next Goal Wins" (Fox Searchlight) and is in production on "Thor: Love and Thunder." For television, Waititi directed the season one finale of "The Mandalorian" (Disney+), in which he also starred; and executive produces, co-writes, and has directed several episodes of the adaptation of "What We Do in the Shadows" (FX).

About the Filmmakers

SHAWN LEVY (Director/Producer) is one of the most prolific filmmakers of the past two decades. His projects have consistently seen massive worldwide success, including the multi Oscar®-nominated "Arrival," and the award-winning Netflix series "Stranger Things," on which Levy serves as both executive producer and frequent director.

While Levy is best known as a director of hit comedies and family films, his production company 21 Laps Entertainment has emerged as one of the most prolific in the industry, with a slate of film and television projects encompassing multiple genres and collaborating with the most renowned actors and filmmakers.

Levy's 21 Laps Entertainment recently inked a massive multi-year film and TV deal with Netflix. In addition to their global blockbuster "Stranger Things," 21 Laps has produced the hugely successful "Unsolved Mysteries" reboot, as well as the critically-acclaimed "I Am Not Okay With This" and "Dash and Lily." Most recently, 21 Laps' instincts for world-building have been celebrated with the success of "Shadow and Bone," a critically-acclaimed series based on the best-selling fantasy novels by Leigh Bardugo. Upcoming TV projects for the streamer include the limited series "All the Light We Cannot See," based on the Pulitzer-winning bestselling novel of the same name.

Levy's directing work includes all three installments of the blockbuster "Night at the Museum" franchise, which Levy also produced. The "Museum" films feature legendary stars such as Ben Stiller, Robin Williams, Owen Wilson, Ricky Gervais, Hank Azaria, Amy Adams, Christopher Guest, Jonah Hill, Rebel Wilson, Dick Van Dyke and Mickey Rooney. Levy's other directorial hits include "Date Night," starring Tina Fey and Steve Carell, "Real Steel," starring Hugh Jackman, and "This Is Where I Leave You," a feature adaptation of Jonathan Tropper's best-selling novel which showcased an all-star cast including Jason Bateman, Tina Fey, Jane Fonda, Adam Driver and Rose Byrne.

In addition to their highly anticipated film "Free Guy," Levy and Reynolds recently wrapped production on their second project together, the sci-fi action drama "The Adam Project," which co-stars Mark Ruffalo, Zoe Saldana, Jennifer Garner and Catherine Keener.

Additional upcoming 21 Laps film projects include the film adaptation of the hit musical "Be More Chill," the Warner Bros. live action musical of "Sesame Street," starring Anne Hathaway, Netflix's "There's Someone Inside Your House" and "Crater" for Disney+. Levy is also producing the Kenya Barris-scripted next installment of Levy's "Cheaper by the Dozen" franchise, as well as an animated "Night at the Museum" feature film, both for Disney+.

Between November 2018 and January 2021, **MATT LIEBERMAN (Screenwriter/Story by)** will have had seven screenplays produced by major studios. These include his Black List script "Free Guy" due 2021 starring Ryan Reynolds with Shawn Levy directing; "Scoob!" released on May 15, 2020 starring Will Forte, Zac Efron and Mark Wahlberg; "Playing with Fire," starring John Cena, released November 2019; "The Addams Family," which grossed over $100 million domestically in 2019; and "Rumble," due to release in early 2022, starring Will Arnett. In addition, he wrote "The Christmas Chronicles," a Netflix holiday hit from his spec script, starring Kurt Russell, and its 2020 sequel, directed by Chris Columbus.

Lieberman recently sold his spec script "Meet the Machines" to Lionsgate. He is currently writing "The Jetsons" for Warner Bros., "Time Central" for Netflix, "Rin Tin Tin" for Warner Bros., and the sequel to "The House with a Clock in Its Walls" for Amblin Partners/Universal.

Additionally, he wrote "Spy vs. Spy" for Warner Bros., "Short Circuit" for Dimension and "Mr. Toad's Wild Ride" for Disney, as well as doing uncredited work on "The Muppets." Originally from New Jersey, Lieberman is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, daughter and French bulldog.

ZAK PENN's (Co-Screenwriter) career began as a screenwriter when he sold his first script, "Last Action Hero" at the age of 23. Since then, Penn has become known for his work on numerous films based on Marvel comics, including "X-Men 2" and "X-Men: The Last Stand," "Elektra," "The Incredible Hulk" and "The Avengers." He has also dabbled in other genres, writing scripts for disparate films such as "PCU," "Behind Enemy Lines" and "Suspect Zero."

Penn's shift into independent cinema began when he collaborated with his idol, Werner Herzog, on the script for "Rescue Dawn." Penn directed and co-starred with Herzog in "Incident at Loch Ness," his award-winning "hoax" documentary about the legendary director's attempts to make a film about the equally legendary monster. "The Grand," Penn's second completely improvised film, was his third film with Herzog and featured an eclectic cast including Woody Harrelson, David Cross, Ray Romano, Cheryl Hines, Dennis Farina and Gabe Kaplan. In addition, Penn co-wrote the original story for "Antz" and produced the animated film "Osmosis Jones "He has also acted in a number of independent films, including "Star Maps" and "Chuck & Buck." His first foray into television was the critically acclaimed original series "Alphas," starring David Strathairn. Penn directed the documentary "Atari: Game Over" for Xbox Entertainment Studios.

More recently, Penn adapted the New York Times bestselling novel "Ready Player One" for Warner Bros. Directed by Steven Spielberg, the film was released in 2018.

SARAH SCHECHTER (Producer), along with her producing partner Greg Berlanti, produces both television and film. She serves as executive producer on Warner Bros. Television's "Riverdale," "You," "All American," "Prodigal Son" and "Kung Fu," as well as the WBTV/ DC Comics superhero shows "The Flash," "Supergirl," "DC's Legends of Tomorrow," "Black Lightning," "Titans," "Doom Patrol," "Stargirl" and "Batwoman." She is also an executive producer on the upcoming Netflix show "Girls on the Bus" and HBO Max's "The Flight Attendant" and "Green Lantern," as well as recent shows "Blindspot," "Chilling Adventures of Sabrina," "God Friended Me," "The Red Line," "Katy Keene" and "Arrow," as well as unscripted series "Equal" and "Helter Skelter."

On the film side, she produced Joe Wright's "Pan," as well as upcoming films from filmmakers Jennifer Kent, Greg Berlanti and Michael Grandage, among others.

Before joining Berlanti Productions, Schechter spent nine years at Warner Bros. Pictures serving as senior vice president of production. During her tenure at Warner Bros. she oversaw a myriad of films, including Spike Jonze's "Her" and Clint Eastwood's "Gran Torino." Other projects include Tim Burton's "Dark Shadows," "Invictus," "J. Edgar," "Life as We Know It" (directed by Berlanti), "I Am Legend" and "300: Rise of an Empire."

Schechter joined Warner Bros. as a creative executive in 2005, ascended to vice president in 2007 and then senior vice president in 2009. Prior to joining Warner Bros., she was an executive at Barry Mendel Productions at Universal Pictures for several years. While there, she oversaw "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou" and worked on "Munich" and "The Royal Tenenbaums," among others. She began her career working for Academy Award®-winning filmmaker Barbara Kopple.

Schechter graduated with honors with a degree in film theory from the University of California at Santa Cruz.

WGA, DGA and Golden Globe®-nominated writer, director, and producer, **GREG BERLANTI (Producer)** is the force behind some of the most inventive and acclaimed works in film and television.

Currently, Berlanti's company has a record-breaking 17 scripted series, the highest number of shows to air at one time for a TV producer and creator. He works as executive producer and co-creator of "The Flash," "DC's Legends of Tomorrow," "Supergirl," "Stargirl," "Titans" and "You." Additionally, Berlanti serves as executive producer on "Riverdale," "Black Lightning," "All American," "Doom Patrol," "Batwoman," "Prodigal Son," "The Flight Attendant," as well as "Green Lantern", "Superman & Lois," "Kung Fu," "Strange Adventures" and "The Girls on the Bus."

He began his career in television as a staff writer on the hit show "Dawson's Creek" and became an executive producer and showrunner of the series after only one year on staff. Since then, Berlanti has served as creator, writer, and producer behind several of the most creative and lauded television series in history including WB's "Everwood" and "Jack & Bobby," ABC's "Brothers & Sisters" "Eli Stone" (for which he was nominated for a WGA award) and "Dirty Sexy Money" and the USA Network's mini--series "Political Animals" (for which he was nominated for a WGA, DGA and Golden Globe award).

Berlanti made his film directorial debut in 2000 with "The Broken Hearts Club." His most recent feature directorial project is the critically acclaimed "Love, Simon," an adaptation of the celebrated YA novel "Simon Vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda." He also directed "Life as We Know It," which grossed over $100 million worldwide. Currently, Berlanti is set to direct an upcoming revival of "The Little Shop of Horrors" for Warner Bros.

Upcoming feature projects include "My Policeman," "Moonshot" and the Untitled Rock Hudson Biopic.

He currently resides in Los Angeles with his husband and two children.

ADAM KOLBRENNER (Producer) is the founder of Lit Entertainment Group, a Beverly Hills based literary management and feature film and television production company. Kolbrenner is a producer of the upcoming film from Paramount/Skydance "The Tomorrow War," starring Chris Pratt, directed by Chris McKay. This is set to release worldwide in theaters July, 2021.

Kolbrenner is the executive producer of the HBO Max Original Sci-fi series "Raised by Wolves." Kolbrenner was a producer of the critically-acclaimed film "Prisoners," written by Aaron Guzikowski. The film had an award-winning cast that included: Hugh Jackman, Jake Gyllenhaal, Melissa Leo, Viola Davis, Terrence Howard, Paul Dano and Maria Bello. The film was directed by Denis Villeneuve and was nominated for an Academy Award® for Roger Deakins' cinematography and was the National Board of Review's winner for best ensemble cast.

Additionally, Kolbrenner is the executive producer for the Netflix holiday franchise "The Christmas Chronicles," starring Kurt Russell.

MARY MCLAGLEN (Executive Producer) is a third generation veteran of the film industry. She is the granddaughter of Oscar®-winning actor Victor McLaglen ("The Informer," "The Quiet Man") and the daughter of the late director Andrew V. McLaglen ("McLintock!," "Shenandoah," "The Rare Breed"). Her brother, Josh McLaglen, is among the industry's most highly-esteemed assistant directors ("Titanic," "Avatar"), whom she has collaborated with on eight films. McLaglen is currently working with her brother on Shawn Levy's "The Adam Project," starring Ryan Reynolds.

Recently she executive produced Drew Goddard's "Bad Times at the El Royale," Francis Lawrence's "Red Sparrow," Matt Reeves' "War for the Planet of the Apes" and David O. Russell's "Joy." McLaglen has collaborated five previous times with director Shawn Levy, executive producing "Night at the Museum: Secret Of The Tomb," "This Is Where I Leave You," "Real Steel" and "The Internship."

McLaglen had a long-running collaboration with Oscar®-winning actress Sandra Bullock, having worked together on eight projects: "The Proposal," "All about Steve," "The Lake House," "Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous," "Two Weeks Notice," "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood," "Practical Magic" and "Hope Floats."

She also served as executive producer on Anne Fletcher's "The Guilt Trip," with Barbra Streisand and Seth Rogen; "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story"; Mimi Leder's "Pay It Forward"; and Barry Levinson's comedy "Envy." She co-produced "One Fine Day," "Sgt. Bilko," "Moonlight and Valentino," "The Client" and "Sommersby."

McLaglen began her career as a production assistant on her father's sets, moved up the ladder to the rank of production coordinator ("Nomads," "Runaway Train," "Back to School") and unit production manager ("Jack's Back," "The Prince of Pennsylvania," "My Cousin Vinny") before producing her first film, "Cold Feet" in 1988.

JOSH MCLAGLEN (Executive Producer) is unlike any other first assistant director. He is best known for his work with James Cameron on the blockbusters "Avatar" and "Titanic."

His early credits include installments in horror film franchises, such as "The Blob" (1988), "Predator 2" and "Alien 3." He also worked on "Dolores Claiborne," based on the Stephen King novel and directed by Taylor Hackford, and "The Haunting," based on the Shirley Jackson novel "The Haunting of Hill House" and directed by Jan de Bont.

He worked alongside director Robert Zemeckis on "What Lies Beneath," "Cast Away" and "Beowulf," and has also worked with Michael Bay and Barry Levinson. Recently, he has worked on several films in the "X-Men" franchise with directors Matthew Vaughn, Bryan Singer, James Mangold and Simon Kinberg.

McLaglen worked on Shawn Levy's "Night at the Museum" series and received his first executive producer credit on "Night at the Museum 2." He has since worked with Levy on "Date Night,"

"Real Steel," "The Internship" and most recently, "Free Guy." He recently worked with Taika Waititi on "Next Goal Wins" and is currently working on Shawn Levy's next film "The Adam Project."

DAN LEVINE (Executive Producer) is a partner at Shawn Levy's production company, 21 Laps Entertainment, based at 20th Century Studios. Levine produced the critically acclaimed, worldwide box office hit "Arrival." Directed by Denis Villeneuve and starring Amy Adams and Jeremy Renner, "Arrival" was nominated for eight Academy Awards®, including best picture, as well as nine BAFTA Awards, including best picture.

Levine recently produced the Top 5 hit show, "I Am Not Okay with This," for Netflix, which was directed by Jonathan Entwistle and the Netflix show, "Shadow and Bone," which is based on the best-selling book series by Leigh Bardugo.

Prior to that, he produced Fox's "Why Him?" written and directed by John Hamburg and starring Bryan Cranston and James Franco. He also produced the Disney hit "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" starring Steve Carell as well as the drama "Kodachrome," starring Ed Harris, Jason Sudeikis, and Elizabeth Olsen, which premiered at TIFF and was released by Netflix.

Levine was also an executive producer on Shawn Levy's "The Internship," starring Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson, as well as "Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb."

Levine joined Levy's company in 2010, after serving as Paramount Pictures executive vice president of production, working on such projects as Matt Reeves' monster blockbuster "Cloverfield," Matthew Vaughn's "Stardust," global hit "G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra," the successful relaunching of the horror franchise "Friday the 13th" and the Mark Wahlberg actioner "Shooter."

Levine has alternated between producer and studio executive during his career. While at Jersey Films, as a senior Vice president, he executive produced the John Hamburg directed, Ben Stiller-Jennifer Aniston comedy hit, "Along Came Polly," Richard LaGravenese's "Freedom Writers," co-produced Todd Graff's "Camp," and served as production exec on the 2001 indie hit "Super Troopers."

Prior to that, Levine was vice president at New Regency, where he was the executive on Curtis Hanson's Oscar®-winning "L.A. Confidential," David Fincher's "Fight Club," Joel Schumacher's courtroom thriller "A Time to Kill," and "City of Angels."

MICHAEL RILEY MCGRATH (Executive Producer), a native of Houston, studied film and television at the University of Texas at Austin and interned at Austin Film Society. After moving to Los Angeles, he got his start at Weed Road Pictures which led him to ICM. From there, he moved to Warner Bros. Pictures to assist Sarah Schechter, then SVP Production. When she left to partner

with Greg Berlanti at Berlanti Productions, McGrath went along with her. There he worked his way up from coordinator to his current title of vice president.

Initially working in both TV and features for the company, he worked on the pilots for "DC's Legends of Tomorrow" (The CW), "God Friended Me" (CBS) and "Batwoman" (The CW), the latter of which he acted as producer. After segueing exclusively into features for the company, McGrath serves as executive producer on the company's upcoming films "Unpregnant" (HBO Max) and "Free Guy" (20th Century Studios). He has been an integral part in the company's growing feature business, including overseeing for Berlanti and Schechter their slate of features at HBO Max and 20th Century Studios, where the company has deals, as well as bringing in and shepherding projects at Amazon, WB, New Line, Focus, Universal and Village Roadshow.

Next up is Jennifer Kent's true story adaptation of "Alice & Freda Forever" for Amazon/SKE, as well as the HBO Max feature "Moonshot," directed by Chris Winterbauer and starring Lana Condor.

GEORGE RICHMOND, BSC (Director of Photography) has varied feature credits, including Roar Uthaug's "Tomb Raider" (2018) starring Alicia Vikander, "Kingsman: The Secret Service" (2014) and "Kingsman: The Golden Circle" (2017), both for director Matthew Vaughn and Michael Apted's "Unlocked" (2017).

Richmond has collaborated extensively with director Dexter Fletcher on the musical fantasy "Rocketman" (2019) for which he received a Satellite Award nomination, "Eddie the Eagle" (2015) starring Hugh Jackman and Taron Egerton, "Sunshine on Leith" (2013) and "Wild Bill" (2011)

He is currently filming the third installment in the "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" franchise, directed by David Yates and starring Eddie Redmayne and Jude Law.

ETHAN TOBMAN (Production Designer) was born in Montreal, Canada. Recent feature films include the Academy Award®-winning "Room," "Beautiful Boy" and "The Report." Tobman received two nominations in 2018 from the Art Directors Guild for Kendrick Lamar's "All the Stars" music video and Ariana Grande's "No Tears Left to Cry." Other notable music videos include longtime collaborations with Beyoncé on her visual albums "Black Is King" and "Lemonade," her "Run the World" and "On the Run" tours, Taylor Swift's "Cardigan" and "The Man" videos, Madonna's "Give Me All Your Lovin," Eminem's "Not Afraid" (VMA nomination) and OK Go's "The Writing's on the Wall" (UK VMA win).

Tobman started as a child actor in Montreal, but routinely got in trouble for hiding behind the sets with painters and carpenters, curious to figure out how they were built. Later, he attended NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and his short film "Remote" was selected for the Cannes International Film Festival when he was 19 years old. He arrived with a feature script he had written, based on his experience living in India, about a young woman who becomes unwittingly roped into a cult that tricks her into blowing up a U.S. monument. He submitted it to several film studios and received some interest, going as far as to submit a revised draft on September 8th,

2001. Three days later, 9/11 happened. Suddenly there was no interest in a movie about domestic terrorism.

At this point, Tobman was broke and running out of time on his student visa. But the plucky lad still owned a tuxedo from Cannes so he began catering at a fancy event company, where servers were not allowed to speak to the guests. While serving dinner at a gala, he overheard two of the guests, indie film producers, talking about how frustrated they were that the designer they were working with couldn't draw. He knew he would lose his job if he spoke to them, but he couldn't pass it up. He told them to try him out the next day for free and that if they liked what he drew, to keep him on. They did, and as he puts it, "I haven't stopped working since. I actually eventually designed two features for one of those producers. I didn't understand until that moment that illustration was a touchstone to storytelling, and that as a filmmaker I was actually a designer."

DEAN ZIMMERMAN, ACE (Film Editor) is the award-winning editor of over 50 feature films and television episodes. Currently, he is editing the fourth season of "Stranger Things," for which he won the Emmy Award® in 2014, multiple HPA Awards, and for which he has also been nominated for an American Cinema Editors Eddie Award. Zimmerman is also currently editing the time travel action-drama "The Adam Project" for director Shawn Levy.

Zimmerman's collaboration with producer/director Shawn Levy dates back over many years and a dozen films, films that have cumulatively grossed several billion dollars at the worldwide box-office. These collaborations include: the "Night at the Museum" franchise, "Date Night," "Real Steel," "The Internship" and "This is Where I Leave You." Other Zimmerman credits include "Rush Hour 3," "Jumper," "Gulliver's Travels," as well as additional editing on "Why Him?" and the Netflix series "Shadow and Bone," based on the bestselling YA fantasy book series.

He grew up in the entertainment industry, having apprenticed and worked alongside his father, the legendary editor Don Zimmerman. He became a member of the American Cinema Editors, A.C.E, in 2016 and is a member of the Television Academy. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife Anne and their two daughters.

MARLENE STEWART (Costume Designer) is an award-winning and groundbreaking designer who has built a long and illustrious career working with some of cinema's most prominent filmmakers.

Stewart's work will next be featured in "Top Gun: Maverick," the eagerly anticipated sequel to "Top Gun," starring Tom Cruise, Jennifer Connelly, Jon Hamm, Ed Harris, and Miles Teller and directed by Joseph Kosinski.

Stewart's early collaborations began with Academy Award®-winning Oliver Stone on the biopics "The Doors" and "JFK." She then went on to work with James Cameron on the iconic "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" and "True Lies."

She continued her period work on “Ali” with the accomplished director Michael Mann, and then moved to more contemporary drama with award winning director Alejandro González Iñárritu on “21 Grams.”

Stewart has designed costumes for many other noted directors and producers on contemporary films including: Jerry Bruckheimer‘s “Gone in 60 Seconds” and “Coyote Ugly,” Joel Schumacher’s “Falling Down” with Michael Douglas, David Dobkin’s “The Judge” with Robert Downey Jr., Curtis Hanson’s “The River Wild,” starring Meryl Streep, Nancy Meyers’s “The Holiday,” Phillip Noyce’s “The Saint” and Kimberly Peirce’s “Stop-Loss.”

She has collaborated with Ben Stiller on three projects: “Tropic Thunder,” “Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian” and “Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb.” Her work with Will Smith also spans three films: “Ali,” “Hitch” and director Tony Scott’s “Enemy of the State.”

“Free Guy” marks Stewart’s fifth film with director and producer Shawn Levy. Their previous productions include: Hugh Jackman in “Real Steel” and Steve Carell in “Date Night,” as well as on two films from the “Night at the Museum” franchise.

Her repertoire also includes “Triple Frontier,” starring Ben Affleck, Oscar Isaac, Charlie Hunnam, Garrett Hedlund, and Pedro Pascal; the sci-fi film “Oblivion,” directed by Joseph Kosinski and starring Tom Cruise; “Allegiant,” the third film in the “Divergent” series; the period fantasy “Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters,” with Jeremy Renner; the 1930’s period film “The Phantom,” starring Billy Zane; and the flamboyant “To Wong Foo Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar,” featuring Patrick Swayze.

Other early films include: “Siesta” with Ellen Barkin and Jodie Foster, the “Pet Sematary” series, James L. Brooks’ “I’ll Do Anything” and Abel Ferrara’s “Dangerous Game,” starring Madonna and Harvey Keitel.

Stewart has also designed for TV and commercials, but she was a pioneer in the world of music videos and MTV, collaborating with Madonna on such groundbreaking videos as “Material Girl,” “Vogue,” “Express Yourself,” “Papa Don’t Preach,” “Like a Prayer” and several of Madonna’s world tours. During this seminal time, she also created looks for other well-known artists including The Rolling Stones, Rod Stewart, Janet Jackson, The Eurythmics, Smashing Pumpkins, Cher, and Bette Midler as well as Gloria Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine.

Stewart won the very first MTV Video Award for best costumes, as well as the Bob Mackie Design Award, and in 2012 Stewart was presented with a Career Achievement Award from the Costume Designers Guild.

Prior to work in the music world, Stewart designed a contemporary line of clothing called “Covers” which was sold in all the major department stores in the United States. She was known as one of the top California designers, but she also worked extensively in England and Europe.

Hailing from Boston, Stewart received her master's from UC Berkeley in European History, and has a degree in design from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in New York.

Award-winning composer **CHRISTOPHE BECK (Music by)** has a career that bridges genres and garners well-deserved acclaim. Beck displays his range from scoring Marvel Studios' action-adventure "Ant-Man" to Fox's film adaptation of Charles M. Schulz's beloved comic strip "Peanuts." Recent projects include "Frozen II," the documentary "Watson," "The Christmas Chronicles" and Marvel Studios' "Ant-Man and the Wasp."

The prolific composer scored the Oscar® and GRAMMY®-winning animated film "Frozen" (the soundtrack album has sold over 3 million copies). Beck is the musical voice of iconic comedies of the last decade, including: "The Hangover," "American Pie," "Hot Tub Time Machine" and "Pitch Perfect"; poignant films, including "Cake," starring Jennifer Anniston, and the true-life-based drama "We Are Marshall"; documentaries including "Red Army" and the award-winning "Waiting for Superman"; rom-coms, including "Under the Tuscan Sun" and "Crazy, Stupid, Love"; along with action films, including "Year of the Dog" and "Edge of Tomorrow," the sci-fi thriller directed by Doug Liman, starring Tom Cruise and Emily Blunt, as well as the drama/crime film "American Made." Beck's breakthrough success came by composing music for the TV series "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," for which he earned an Emmy®.

Beck is unique in his versatile ability to develop the tone in any genre. His music combines a masterful use of complex dynamics to create tension and convey a vast spectrum of emotion. Beck's scores add depth, intrigue, humor and sentiment, and his music contributes powerfully to the aesthetic of each film he scores.

Beck began playing piano at age 5. He then studied music at Yale and attended the USC film-scoring program under the tutelage of legendary composer Jerry Goldsmith. He began composing in television at the personal recommendation of Disney music legend Buddy Baker.

SWEN GILLBERG (Visual Effects Supervisor) was nominated for an Academy Award® for his work on "Real Steel." He has been focused on the integration of live elements and CGI for more than two decades. He began his VFX career in 1997 and has been a CG Supervisor on features, including: "G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra," "Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief," "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" and "Letters from Iwo Jima."

His 3D integration credits include: "A Beautiful Mind," "The Day After Tomorrow," "The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor," and more. Gillberg was the on-set visual effects supervisor for "Jack the Giant Slayer," and has supervised plate photography on set for "XXX," "The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor," "Stealth," "Flags of Our Fathers," "Red Planet" and "Enders Game." He was visual effects supervisor on "Night at the Museum," "Fast and Furious 7" and Captain America: Civil War. Recently he was additional visual effects supervisor on Avengers: "Infinity War" and "Avengers: End Game," and visual effects supervisor on Netflix's "The Gray Man."

Gillberg holds a B.S. in structural engineering from U.C.L.A.

CHRIS O'HARA (Stunt Coordinator) has worked as a second unit director, stunt coordinator and stuntman in film and television for over 20 years. His most recent credits as stunt coordinator include the international blockbusters "Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw" (2019) and "Venom" (2018).

O'Hara received Screen Actors Guild Award® nominations for outstanding action performance by a stunt ensemble in a motion picture for his work in "Baby Driver" (2017), "Jurassic World" (2015), "The Bourne Legacy" (2012), "X-Men: First Class" (2011) and "The Bourne Ultimatum" (2007). He won the Online Film & Television Association Award for best stunt coordinator for his work on "Baby Driver" in 2018 and was nominated for the award for "Jurassic World" in 2016.

O'Hara was the stunt coordinator on "Red Sparrow" (2018), "xXx: Return of Xander Cage" (2017), "Kevin Hart: What Now?" (2016), "Allegiant" (2016), "Hitman: Agent 47" (2015), "Jurassic World" (2015), "Jupiter Ascending" (2015), "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues" (2013), "The Avengers" (2012), "Moneyball" (2011) and "Water for Elephants" (2011).

O'Hara has also served as a stunt double for a wide range of stars, including Matt Damon ("The Bourne Supremacy"), Bradley Cooper ("The Midnight Meat Train," "The Hangover," "The Hangover Part III"), Jake Gyllenhaal ("Bubble Boy'), Jim Carrey ("How The Grinch Stole Christmas"), Chris Pine "(Just My Luck") and Hugo Weaving "(The Matrix Revolutions," "The Matrix Reloaded").

Additional stunt credits in film include: "Bad Times at the El Royale" (2018), "The Wedding Ringer" (2015), "John Wick" (2014), "Iron Man 3" (2013), "The Bourne Supremacy" (2004), "Spider-Man 3" (2007), "Spider-Man 2" (2004), "Kill Bill: Vol. 2" (2004), "Kill Bill: Vol. 1" (2003), "Daredevil" (2003), "American Pie 2" (2001), "Pearl Harbor" (2001), "The Patriot" (2000), "Magnolia" (1999), "Fight Club" (1999), "Star Trek: Insurrection" (1998), "Pleasantville" (1998), "Air Force One" (1997) and "Batman & Robin" (1997).

O'Hara has also worked as a stunt coordinator on television shows including "Champions," "The Mindy Project" and "CSI: Cyber" and "The Cape."

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